

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2009
Facilities and Engineering Service
VAMC Perry Point
June, 2010
PWID# 0070017

Facilities and Engineering Service is pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services delivered to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

This report shows our water quality and what it means.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Facilities and Engineering wants to keep you informed of the excellent water and services provided to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is the Susquehanna River and is treated by rapid sand filters. Fully staffed of State Certified operators ensure good water quality. We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements. If you have any questions about this report concerning your water utility, please contact David Davis, Water Filtration Plant Supervisor at 410-642-2411, extension 5147. We want our valued residents to be informed about their water utility.

Perry Point VAMC Water Filtration Plant routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the periods of January 1st to December 31st, 2009. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It is important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms Facilities and Engineering Service provided the following definitions:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

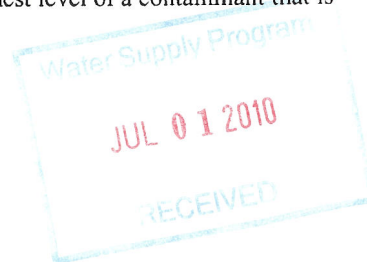
Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) - a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - the "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is



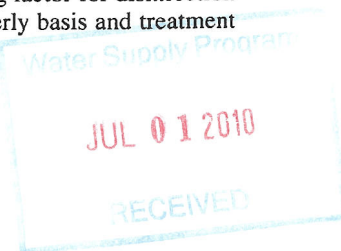
allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - the "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Microbiological Contaminants						
Turbidity (average)	N	0.052	NTU	N/A	TT	Soil runoff
Inorganic Contaminants						
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	1.7	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	< 0.1	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Arsenic	N	< 2.0	ppb	0	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Copper (distribution)	N	0.13	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (distribution)	N	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Synthetic Organic Contaminants Including Pesticides and Herbicides						
Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	N	0.68	ppb	0	6	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories
Dalapon	N	0.2	ppb	200	200	Runoff from herbicide used on rights of way
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
TTHM (Distribution) [Total trihalomethanes]	N	35.5 (avg.)	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 [Haloacetic Acids] (Distribution)	N	52.8 (avg.)	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Contaminants						
Sodium	N	20.0	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural products
Chloroform	N	38.0	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromodichloromethane	N	10.2	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Dibromochloromethane	N	1.3	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Note: All test results are for 2009 unless otherwise noted. Not all contaminants are required to be tested for annually.

As can be seen from test results in the above tables, our average TTHMS (total trihalomethanes) based on quarterly sampling was less than the MCL for that contaminant. The MCL for this contaminant is 80 ppb based on a running annual average. One (1) sample is required per quarter. These contaminants are formed by the reaction of our chlorine disinfectant with naturally occurring organic materials which are carried into our sources through runoff from rainfall. The ranges of results during this calendar year were between 1 and 57.9 ppb cancer. Our efforts to lower this contaminant are through lowering of TOC levels, which is the primary contributing factor for disinfection by-product formation. Our monitoring for disinfection by-products is continuing on a quarterly basis and treatment processes are being adjusted in an effort to control this contaminant and lower these levels.



This is an ongoing problem which will take much effort to resolve, and could eventually require major plant upgrades. MDE is working closely with the VA Medical Center to return the system to full compliance.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Perry Point VAMC is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

NOTE: As can be seen by results listed in the above tables, lead, which is tested for triennial (every 3 years) in accordance with Federal and State Regulations in Perry Point's distribution system, was not detected in our most recently collected samples.

We constantly monitor for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. This past year we received reporting violations for October 1st thru October 31st when routine Bacti test results for that month was not received by MDE by the required due date. This did not pose a threat to the quality of our water supply as test results were negative for the presence of bacteria. Our system also received a reporting violation when test results for our annual fluoride monitoring was not received by the required due date. The system was returned to full compliance after these results were received by MDE from our lab.

During 2009 we were required to do standard testing for TTHMs and HAA5s at 2 additional sites in our system to determine the highest potential levels for formation of disinfection by-products. This was required under a new rule called the Stage 2 Rule for Disinfection By-Products. These results are in the following table and they are currently unregulated. In CY 2013, these sites may become compliance monitoring sites replacing the currently used site.

Sample Sites	TTHMs Results	HAA5s Results	Average TTHMs	Average HAA5s
Water Tower	Range 25 – 46	Range 28 – 36	36	32
Bldg. 18	Range 35 - 67	Range 34 - 48	51	41

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean quality water. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers.

Facilities and Engineering Service works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

